

Chesterfield Rural District Council.

HEALTH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

HERBERT PECK, M.B., C.M. Edin., D.P.H. Camb.,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHESTERFIELD :

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Chesterfield Rural District Council

1898.

Chairman :

J. F. SWALLOW, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

BOOTH-WADDINGTON, C.C.

Ashover	...	...	...	Rev. J. B. NODDER, M.A.
do.	..	...	...	Mr. J. H. TWIGG
Barlow	...	...	...	Mr. H. W. BLAND
Beighton	...	...	...	Mr. T. REVELL
Brackenfield	...	...	...	Mr. W. G. TURBUTT, J.P.
Brimington	...	...	...	Mr. D. CUTTS
Calow (until September)...	...	...	...	Mr. C. THORPE (succeeded by Mr. J. PARKER)
Coal Aston...	...	...	...	Mr. F. G. HARRISON
Dronfield Woodhouse	...	...	...	Mr. G. DOBBS
Eckington—Eckington Ward	...	...	...	Mr. H. Y. ROTHERHAM
do. Mosboro' Ward	...	...	...	Mr. J. F. SWALLOW, J.P.
do. Renishaw Ward	...	...	...	Mr. C. POLLARD
do. Ridgeway Ward	...	...	...	Rev. M. G. HUBBACK, M.A.
Hasland	...	...	...	Mrs. MARKHAM
Heath	...	...	...	Mr. G. A. MARSDEN
Holmesfield	...	...	...	Mr. J. SMITH
Killamarsh	...	...	...	Rev. F. J. METCALFE
Morton	...	...	...	Mr. E. P. CUTTS
North Wingfield	...	...	...	Mr. J. HOLMES
Pilsley	...	...	...	Mr. J. S. SAMPSON, J.P.

Shirland and Higham	...	...	...	Mr J. T. HARRISON, J.P.
Staveley	...	...	...	Rev. C. H. MOLINEUX
do.	...	...	...	Mr. W. RIDGWAY
do.	...	...	...	Rev. W. R. WINDER
Stretton	...	...	..	Mr. A. MILNER
Sutton-cum-Duckmanton			...	Mr. W. WINSON
Tapton	...	...	...	Mr. W. BELFITT
Temple-Normanton			...	Mr. S. R. SWANN
Tupton	...	...	...	Mr. P. WILBOURNE
Unstone	...	...	...	Mr. T. E. SUMMERFIELD
Wessington			...	Mr. H. S. TAYLOR
Wingerworth	...	...	...	Mr. B. WADDINGTON
Woodthorpe	...	...	...	Mr. I. PRIESTLEY

Medical Officer of Health :

HERBERT PECK, M.B., C.M.Edin., D.P.H.Camb.,
St. Helen's Street, Chesterfield.

*Surveyor of Plans, Inspector of Nuisances, and Inspector of
Canal Boats :*

Mr. ERNEST S. ROBINSON, Abercrombie Street,
Chesterfield.

Disinfecting Inspector :

Mr. JAMES HUTCHINSON, Hepthorne Lane, North
Wingfield, Chesterfield.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1898.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Chesterfield
Rural District Council.*

MARCH 11TH, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in laying before you my first Annual Report.

It is not as comprehensive as I could wish, but my recent appointment and the difficulty of obtaining certain information which has not been laid before you in previous reports have limited its scope and also delayed its production.

Population.—The area of the Chesterfield Rural District has been increased since the census of 1891 by the addition of the Parish of Beighton, but diminished by the constitution of Bolsover as an urban district and the addition of portions of several townships to neighbouring urban districts, and it is therefore impossible with the information at my disposal to form an accurate estimate of the population at that time of the District as at present constituted. But, as the census returns give the population and the number of inhabited houses in each parish, and the Assistant Overseers have been so kind as to count up for me the number of inhabited houses at the end of June, I am able to give you an

estimate of the population which cannot be far from the truth ; basing my calculation upon the number of inhabited houses in each Parish and taking the total of their estimated populations as that of the District, I estimate the Population at the middle of this year to have consisted of **67,920** persons occupying 12,754 houses.

Barlow had 45 houses less, Brackenfield and Woodthorpe each one less, and Stretton the same number as at the time of the census. Ashover had 38 more, Beighton 158, Brimington 149, Calow 47, Coal Aston 28, Dronfield Woodhouse 3, Eckington 192, Heath 10, Holmesfield 5, Killamarsh 142, Morton 6, North Wingfield 76, Pilsley 61, Shirland and Higham 17, Staveley 418, Sutton-cum-Duckmanton 48, Tapton 44, Temple Normanton 10, Tupton 27, Unstone 18, Wessington 7, and Wingerworth 2. The greatest numerical increase was in Staveley, but the greatest proportional in Tapton, which has more than doubled the number (40) it had at the time of the last census.

Birth Rate.—The number of Births registered as occurring in the District was 2,393—1,209 Males and 1,184 Females,—and 6 children—2 Males and 4 Females,—were born in Chesterfield Workhouse of parents belonging to the District. The addition of these gives 2,399 as the number of Births for the District, equivalent to a Birth Rate of **35·32** per 1,000 living, which is much higher than the rate for England and Wales, which is 29·4, and about the same as that for 1897, though this last was calculated on too small an estimated population. The highest rates obtained in Stretton and Temple Normanton, and the lowest in Woodthorpe, but these phenomenal figures are of comparatively small value, for as a slight alteration in the number of events occurring in a small population makes a great difference in the percentage. The rates for the more thickly populated parishes were satisfactory, those for Brimington, Killamarsh, North Wingfield, Staveley, Tupton, and Unstone being well above that for the District, as was also that for the parish of Morton.

Ninety-two of the births, or 38 in each thousand, were illegitimate, and are equal to an Illegitimate Birth Rate of 1·35 per 1,000 ; the average rate for England and Wales for the ten years ending 1896 was 44 per 1,000 births, or 1·34 per 1,000 of the population.

Death Rate.—The number of Deaths registered as occurring in the District was 1,006. If 23 deaths in Chesterfield Workhouse and eight deaths in Chesterfield Infirmary of persons belonging to the District are added, and the number of deaths of strangers which occurred in the District is taken as equalling that of the persons belonging to the District who died out of it, the total number of deaths amounts to 1,037, equal to a rate of **15·26** per 1,000. This is greater than that of 1897, notwithstanding the fact that this was calculated upon too small an estimated population, but well below that for England and Wales, which is 17·6, and that for England and Wales less the 100 large towns, which is 16·7.

The highest rates of individual townships are those of Dronfield Woodhouse and Unstone (contiguous to one another), and Wingerworth ; and the lowest those of Holmesfield, Temple Normanton, Stretton, and Sutton-cum-Duckmanton, all parishes with a small population. The death-rate of Woodthorpe exceeds the birth rate, but its population is so small that its statistics are of small value. The highest rate among the larger parishes is that of Staveley, but, owing to the fact that many children die in infancy, it is usual to find a high birth-rate accompanied by a high death-rate.

Zymotic Death Rate.—The seven principal zymotic diseases are small-pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria (including membranous croup), fever (including typhoid, enteric and continued), measles, whooping cough, and diarrhœa. One hundred and twenty-one deaths recorded were ascribed to one or other of these diseases, and are equal to a zymotic death-rate of **1·78** per 1,000, which is about the same as that of the previous year, but well below the rate of 2·22 of England and

Wales, and about the same as the 1·75 of England and Wales less the 100 large towns. The highest rate for an individual township is that of Tapton, but those of Beighton, Brackenfield, Brimington, Coal Aston, Heath, Morton, and Staveley are also unenviably prominent.

Infant Mortality.—The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 356, and are equal to a rate of **148** per 1,000 Births, which is a great improvement on the rate of 194 of 1897, and better than the 161 of England and Wales, though somewhat greater than the 145 of England and Wales less the 100 large towns.

SYNOPTIC TABLE OF THE FOREGOING RATES.

1898.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Infant Mortality.
Chesterfield Rural District...	35·32	15·26	1·78	148
England and Wales.....	29·4	17·6	2·22	161
England and Wales less 100 large towns, but including many Urban Districts.....	.....	16·7	1·75	145

Causes of Death.—Seven deaths were due to scarlet fever, 3 to diphtheria, 3 to membranous croup, 12 to enteric or typhoid fever, 16 to measles, 26 to whooping cough, and 54 to diarrhoea and dysentery; 3 were ascribed to erysipelas, 4 to puerperal fever, 16 to influenza, 2 to rheumatic fever, 51 to consumption of the lungs, 30 to other scrofulous diseases, 178 to bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, 37 to cancer, 38 to injuries, and 66 to old age.

The rates to which these figures are equal can be seen on reference to the following table, page 9, where they are compared with those of England and Wales for the latest available decennial period; they are good upon the whole.

Vital Statistics of the Chesterfield Rural District for 1898, compared with those of England and Wales for the ten years ending 1896.

	Chesterfield Rural District. 1898.	England & Wales. Mean of ten years, 1887 to 1896.
Estimated Population	67,920	29,253,789
Birth Rate (per 1,000 persons) ...	35·32	30·68
Death Rate	15·26	18·57
Zymotic Death Rate	1·78	2·6
Small-pox ... ..	.....	·017
Scarlet Fever	·13	·21
Diphtheria	·04	·23
Membranous Croup... ..	·04	·09
Typhus ... ..	.....	·005
Enteric Fever	·17	·18
Measles	·22	·45
Whooping Cough	·38	·42
Diarrhœa	·80	·61
Erysipelas	·04	·05
Puerperal Fever	·06	·07
Influenza	·22	·24
Rheumatic Fever	·03	·09
Pulmonary Phthisis... ..	·74	1·50
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	·44	·67
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy...	2·62	3·30
Cancer	·54	·69
Violence, Accident, & Suicide ...	·56	·86
Old Age	·98	·94
Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births ...	148·	147·8

*Vital and other Statistics of the Townships comprised in the
Chesterfield Rural District.*

1898,	Acreage.	Estimated Population.	Number of inhabited houses at middle of year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic death rate.	Infant mortality per 1,000 birtl.s.
Ashover	9,244	2,527	550	29·63	16·62	·79	107
Barlow	3,844	892	185	28·02	13·45	1·12	40
Beighton	2,998	3,707	685	31·80	15·10	3·23	186
Brackenfield	1,557	342	69	29·23	11·69	2·92	nil.
Brimington	1,373	4,800	934	36·04	15·20	2·70	139
Calow	1,281	862	160	29·	16·24	1·16	240
Coal Aston	1,257	662	144	34·74	16·46	3·02	130
Dronfield Woodhouse	1,480	742	160	33·69	26·95	1·34	200
Eckington	7,072	13,354	2,570	33·17	15·05	1·79	163
Hasland	2,065	6,060	1,121	34·15	12·70	1·48	164
Heath	1,611	455	87	30·77	13·19	2·19	71
Holmesfield	4,556	523	112	17·21	7·65	nil.	111
Killamarsh	1,601	3,945	754	38·02	14·45	1·02	127
Morton	1,252	782	147	42·19	16·62	2·56	61
North Wingfield	1,584	2,822	502	40·04	14·52	1·41	168
Pilsley	1,554	2,694	449	31·92	13·36	·74	186
Shirland & Higham	2,946	3,782	729	35·16	13·48	·79	128
Staveley	6,825	11,852	1,991	38·98	17·36	2·61	141
Stretton	1,513	608	131	57·56	9·85	nil.	57
Sutton-c-Duckmanton	4,296	1,000	172	28·	11·	nil.	143
Tapton	636	475	84	27·36	12·63	4·21	154
Temple Normanton	514	260	47	50·	7·69	nil.	77
Tupton	684	1,690	329	44·38	15·97	1·18	187
Unstone	2,119	1,774	374	42·27	23·11	1·69	187
Wessington	958	643	136	29·55	12·44	nil.	53
Wingerworth	2,907	389	78	36·	23·13	nil.	214
Woodthorpe	1,022	278	54	10·79	14·38	nil.	nil.
Chesterfield Rural Dis.	68,789	67,920	12,754	35·32	15·26	1·78	148

Table shewing the number of Houses in each Parish and the District known to be Infected during the year, and numbers of Cases and Deaths.

1898.	Smallpox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.		Fever, Enteric & Continued.		Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Diarrhoea and Dysentery.		Erysipelas.		Puerperal Fever.		Totals.	
	H.	C. D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.	H.	C.	D.
Ashover			4				2	3	1	1	1		1	1					9	2
Barlow			4							1	1				1				16	1
Beighton			20				3	3	1	1	1	3	4	5	4	4	1	1	42	13
Brackenfield														1					1	1
Brimington			19		1	2	6	9	2	2	6	6	6	1	3	5	1	1	61	13
Calow			1	2															3	1
Coal Aston			1	2										1	1				5	2
Dronfield Woodhouse			5	9											1	1			11	2
Eckington			20	23		1	11	13	5	1	7	7	10	10	10	10		1	65	24
Hasland			19	31	2			1	1					7	7	10	1		50	10
Heath														1	1				1	1
Holmesfield							1	1											1	
Killamarsh			12	15		3	2	3			2	2	2		7	7			33	5
Morton							1	4	1					1	1				5	2
North Wingfield			8	17			2	2		1	1			3	3	3	2	2	28	4
Pilsley			9	13			1	1						2	2	6	1	1	23	2
Shirland and Higham			5	8			2	2	1					2	2	3	1	1	16	4
Staveley			113	183	2	6	12	14	1	8	9	4	5	12	12	13	3	1	246	33
Stretton			5	6															6	
Sutton-cum-Duckmanton			3	3															3	
Tapton			1	5			1	1	1					1	1	1			8	2
Temple Normanton			2	2															2	
Tupton			3	3							1	1	1	1	1	1			6	2
Unstone			3	8	1	1								2	2				11	3
Wessington															1	1			1	
Wingerworth																				
Woodthorpe			2	5											2	2	1		7	1
Chesterfield Rural District		259	412	7	15	15	64	57	12	14	16	26	26	54	54	65	70	310	660	128

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The majority of the infectious cases of the year occurred before my appointment, and I have very little information about them to lay before you, it not having been the practice of your late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Angus Macintosh, to preserve any record of infectious cases beyond that contained in the list of notifications received.

The distribution of the cases of each disease, the number of houses infected, and the number of deaths that took place, may be seen on reference to the table on page 11. The precautions taken to check the disease are mentioned further on.

Smallpox.—This loathsome disease last made its appearance in the District in 1894, when ten cases occurred, two of which were fatal.

Vaccination and re-vaccination are the only safeguards against it, and recent retrograde legislation having broken down these barriers, the disease will certainly become more common in the near future. Therefore no time should be lost in providing special hospital accommodation for smallpox patients, in the hope that the isolation of the first cases may prevent an epidemic. This precaution is absolutely necessary, and should be taken at once, and not neglected until a time of panic ; the Morton Hospital is the only provision of the kind at present, and is occupied, at the time of writing, by four typhoid fever patients.

Scarlet Fever.—Houses infected, 259 ; cases, 412 ; deaths, 7.

A serious outbreak in Staveley accounts for nearly half the total number of cases. The presence of the disease in the township during the earlier months of the year was shown by the occurrence of a few cases, but between the beginning of July and the end of October the disease assumed almost an epidemic form. The spreading of the disease was favoured by the ignorance of some people, and, I fear, the wilful disregard of proper precautions by others. On October 11th and 12th

I examined 556 children present at the various schools of Staveley Town, and found three “peeling” after scarlet fever. Handbills were distributed through the agency of the school-teachers, warning parents and other guardians of children as to their responsibility with regard to the notification and isolation of infectious cases, and the subsidence of the disease dates from their issue.

An outbreak in the neighbouring township of Brimington was popularly ascribed to infection carried from Staveley, and probably this was the case.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Houses infected, 15 ; cases, 15 ; deaths, 6.

These diseases may be regarded as identical, the bacillus of diphtheria being found in the throats of persons suffering from membranous croup in almost as great a percentage as in cases of true diphtheria. It is not unusual to find the first cases of an outbreak described as croup, and the later ones, when some of the patients have died, as diphtheria. It would be well to use only the word diphtheria to describe this disease, for parents very generally confuse membranous croup with simple or spasmodic croup, and regard it as being non-infectious, often to their disaster.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.—Houses infected, 45 ; cases, 57 ; deaths, 12.

The mistake of regarding this disease as being non-infectious is commonly made. The fact that it is infectious was proved on several occasions by the spreading which followed the importation of a case. For example : a young man who worked at Clowne fell ill, and returned to his home at Brimington, whence he was notified on October 26th as suffering from typhoid fever ; his precarious condition did not permit of his removal to the Morton Hospital, ten miles distant.

He died on November 16th, and on the 21st his sister was notified as having the disease, from which she died on

December 1st. On December 9th a brother developed the disease, and was removed to the hospital, and the series came to an end.

The germs of the disease are present in the discharges from the bowels of the patient, and when some of them fall on bed-linen, and, becoming dry, diffuse as dust through the air of the sick-room, it is easy for the germs to be swallowed by other persons, either with the saliva or food injudiciously eaten in the room. Those who have noticed the innumerable particles of dust illumined in a sunbeam will readily understand how this may happen. Typhoid cases are sometimes treated in general hospitals along with ordinary medical cases, but the practice is injudicious, though there is a great difference between a hospital, where the patients' excreta are carefully disinfected and any soiled linen removed at once, and a cottage, where the nature of the disease is not properly understood and the stock of linen very limited.

Another common cause of spreading is the deposition of infectious excreta and rubbish in privies and ashpits, and I would recommend the adoption of the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, if only to enable a stop to be put to this practice, which I believe to have been the principal cause of the epidemic at Poolsbrook in 1896. The experiments of Dr. Robertson, now Medical Officer of Health of Sheffield, have shown that typhoid germs may live for a long time under favourable conditions, such as are afforded by a privy or the polluted soil of an unpaved backyard ; while the investigations of Dr. Boobyer, Medical Officer of Health of Nottingham, show that " the proportional annual incidence of the " disease upon houses with privies is more than three times " as great as that upon houses with pail-closets, and that " upon houses with pail-closets more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ times greater " than that upon houses with water-closets." I hope to again bring forward this subject when the water supply of the district has been improved.

Measles.—Houses infected, 14 ; cases, 16 ; deaths, 16.

This disease is not notifiable, and is often spread by children before their parents know what is the matter with them. It annually kills more persons than scarlet fever and diphtheria put together, but most people think it unnecessary to take any precautions against its spreading, regarding it as “a disease of children, and natural to them.”

The only cases reported to you in the year were those which ended fatally ; in two instances, two deaths occurred in one house.

Whooping Cough.—Houses infected, 24 ; cases, 26 ; deaths, 26.

This disease resembles measles in not being notifiable, and in often spreading before being recognised ; also in the contempt with which it is generally regarded, though it kills nearly as many as scarlet fever and diphtheria put together.

As in the case of measles, the fatal cases were the only ones reported to you ; another point of agreement is that in two instances two deaths occurred in one house.

Diarrhœa.—Fifty-four deaths were ascribed to this, and were nearly all those of infants. The principal cause was probably artificial feeding with long-tube bottles, which are difficult to clean.

Erysipelas.—Houses infected, 65 ; cases, 70 ; deaths, 3.

The notified cases were not investigated, but several were stated on the certificate to be traumatic or following injury.

Puerperal Fever.—Houses infected, 10 ; cases, 10 ; deaths, 4.

These cases were not investigated.

Preventive Measures.—Upon the notification of a case of scarlet fever, diphtheria, or enteric fever, the house was

visited by Mr. Hutchinson or myself, or both, and instructions given as to the best way of isolating the patient, and at the same time the cause was looked for. "General Rules to be observed in the Management of Infectious Diseases" (see copy herewith), were revised and printed, and a copy left at each infected house. Carbolic acid was distributed to persons in needy circumstances, but towards the end of the year I substituted perchloride of mercury for carbolic acid in typhoid fever cases, in order to ensure, as far as possible, the sterilization of the excreta. It is supplied in blue fluted bottles containing 12 oz., which are equal, when properly diluted, to three gallons of disinfectant fluid, bearing labels similar to the enclosed. Its composition is :—

Corrosive sublimate.....	Half an ounce.
Strong Commercial Hydrochloric Acid.....	One ounce.
Aniline Blue	Five grains.
Coarse Wood Naptha.....	One ounce.
Water up to.....	Twelve ounces.

At the termination of the illness, the rooms used by the patients were fumigated with sulphur and then cleaned down, under Mr. Hutchinson's supervision.

School Closure.—The Board School, Shirland, was closed from December 15th to January 8th, on account of the prevalence of Mumps in connection with them.

Notification by School Teachers and the Exclusion of Particular Scholars.—Little attention is given to notification by school teachers as a means of information concerning infectious diseases. How valuable it may be is shown by the fact that out of 822 cases which came to the knowledge of the West Lancashire Rural District Council during 1897, 287 were notified by School Teachers and 96 by School Managers.

To induce School Teachers to notify, and to make notification as easy as possible, I have prepared forms, which will be supplied on application to the Clerk, Mr. Hartwright, or

*Keep this Bottle out of the reach
of Children.*

POISON.

DISINFECTANT.

For Motions in Typhoid Fever.

NOT TO BE USED IN METAL VESSELS.

MIX one ounce, or two tablespoonfuls,
with one quart of water, and the
Disinfectant is ready for use. Allow the
Disinfectant to remain at least half-an-
hour with the motion before burying it

Chesterfield Rural District Council.

HERBERT PECK, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

ST. HELEN'S, CHESTERFIELD.

And so it was that
the day

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CONFIDENTIAL

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myself, and in return for this information afforded, I am prepared to give a certificate enabling the School Managers to apply for compensation, under Article 101* of the School Code, for the absence of the children excluded by me.

To obtain, as far as possible, the exclusion of children from infected houses, I have also prepared forms, with blank spaces left for names, one being addressed to the Principal Teacher and informing him that I have forbidden school attendance by the children of the persons named, and others to be sent at the termination of the illness to the Teacher and School Attendance Officer informing them that such is the case.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Patients.—Four scarlet fever patients and five enteric fever patients were admitted to the Morton Hospital, as compared with nine enteric fever patients in 1897.

There is a spontaneous demand on the part of ratepayers for hospital accommodation for infectious patients, which is also desirable for other reasons. No considerable diminution in the prevalence of infectious diseases can be reasonably expected until it is possible to remove the patients from their often small and crowded houses, where there is usually only one person to look after both the sick and the healthy, who not infrequently conveys the infection from one to the other.

The North Derbyshire Joint Hospital Committee held two general and many sub-committee meetings in the course of the year, and made considerable progress, of which the following is a summary.

Chesterfield District.—The site in Hasland, selected by the Sub-Committee, has been approved by the Local Government Board.

North-Eastern District.—Three acres of the field at Mastin Moor, numbered 761 on the Ordnance Map of the Parish of Staveley, has been purchased from the Duke of Devonshire for £300. The land slopes to the South, affording facilities for drainage, and the Chesterfield Rural District Council's water

mains are within 200 yards of the proposed site. An occupation road leading to the main road from Staveley to Barlboro' will be made.

North-Western District.—A close of land on the North side of Holmley Lane, near Dronfield, containing 2a. 2r. 19p. has been purchased for £300. The Dronfield Urban District Council's water main runs alongside the land, and there is adequate fall for drainage purposes.

Southern District.—The close of land called Great Redcliffe, situate in the township of Morton, and lying a short distance from the main road between Stretton and Morton, has been purchased from Mr. Sitwell for £500, inclusive of the value of timber, but exclusive of tenant right. The field is 8 acres in extent, on an eminence giving facilities for drainage, and within easy distance of your water mains.

Extent of Proposed Accommodation.—As at present arranged, the Chesterfield District or Central Hospital at Penmore, Hasland, will consist of :—

- (a) An administrative block ;
- (b) A block containing 16 beds ;
- (c) A block containing 10 beds ;
- (d) An isolation block containing 4 beds ;
- (e) A mortuary, ambulance shed, stable, laundry, disinfecting chambers, and discharging rooms.

The North-Eastern, North-Western and Southern Hospitals will each contain 16 beds divided between four wards, and one or more beds in a small ward to be reserved for paying patients. Administrative and other buildings, as above-mentioned, will also be provided.

A Combined Hospital Authority.—The Borough of Chesterfield, having been constituted a Hospital District under the Isolation Hospitals Act of 1893, has entered into a combination with the Joint Committee for hospital purposes as regards the Penmore Hospital.

Tuberculosis.—Fifty-one deaths were ascribed to Phthisis Pulmonalis, or Consumption of the Lungs, and 30 to

other tuberculous diseases, and together are equal to 7·8 per cent. of the whole, or a death-rate of 1·19 per 1000 living. During the 10 years ending 1896, 440,139 persons died in England and Wales from Consumption, and 193,194 persons from other tuberculous diseases, which figures together are equal to 11·6 per cent. of the total deaths, or a rate of 2·17 per 1000.

You will see from the above figures that the rate for the district for last year was satisfactorily lower than that of England and Wales for the last available decennial period, but even this comparatively low rate cannot be considered entirely satisfactory, for tuberculosis is largely a preventible disease.

To describe it briefly : Tuberculosis is a disease caused by a germ or organism, and can be transmitted by *inoculation*, which is rare ; *inhalation* or breathing in, which is very common ; and *ingestion* or swallowing, which is common, but not so much so as the last.

Phthisis is due to inhalation of the germs of the disease contained in dust, but may also be passed directly from one person to another. It is in this way that the disease spreads amongst cattle, especially among those kept in dark, ill-ventilated, and badly drained shippens.

Tuberculous disease of the bowels is commonest amongst infants, and is frequently seen in the calves of tuberculous animals.

The spreading of the disease is favoured by damp, dirt, darkness, and overcrowding, and it is by the removal of these conditions, the regulation of the production and sale of milk, and other minor measures, that you, as a Sanitary Authority, can lessen the ravages of the disease.

Returns of Pauper Sickness are of considerable value when properly made and recorded, but those of 1898 which are available cover only the last nine months of the year, and are still further imperfect from the fact that one Medical Officer omitted to make any.

A disappointing feature of the returns was the frequency

with which the nature of an illness was described by the name of a symptom instead of that of the disease giving rise to the symptom, rendering exact classification impossible.

I give the following table for what it is worth :—

PARISHES.	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea	Phthisis	Other Tubercular Diseases	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	Nervous Diseases	Digestive Diseases	Urinary Diseases	Cancer	Old Age	Ill defined & other cases	TOTALS.
Ashover ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	1	4	.....	.....	3	5	17
Barlow ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	1	.....	.....	.....	2	7
Beighton	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	3	3	4	6	1	.....	5	16	44
Brackenfield ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Brimington	No	Return	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Calow ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Coal Aston... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	2	1	6	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Dronfield Woodhouse ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3
Eckington ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	5	1	15	2	2	5	4	6	2	1	1	38	83
Hasland ... ..	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	5	.....	4	1	.....	3	.....	.....	5	8	29
Heath	No	Return	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Holmsfield ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Killamarsh ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	1	2	2	.....	1	.....	11	22
Morton ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
North Wingfield ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	6
Pilsley ... ..	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Shirland and Higham ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	.....	3	1	2	2	.....	16	.....	28
Staveley	3	2	.....	5	1	3	2	1	28	1	3	6	11	15	7	.....	5	32	125
Stretton ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	3	4
Sutton-c.-Duckmanton... ..	No	Return	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Tapton ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Temple Normanton	No	Return	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Tupton ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Unstone ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	2	2	.....	.....	.....	3	5	14
Wessington ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Wingerworth ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0
Woodthorpe ... ..	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
	4	2	3	5	2	10	8	2	72	6	20	21	31	41	12	2	24	141	403

WATER SUPPLY.

All the water of the district supplied by public service is up-land surface water, with the exception of that of Ashover, which is from springs.

The Ramsley reservoir has a storage capacity of 18 million and Crowhole reservoir of 25 million gallons, the two having a catchment area of 2,200 acres. The Press reservoir has a storage capacity of 25 million gallons, and a catchment area of about 500 acres. The Linacre Reservoir has a storage capacity of 150 million gallons, and a catchment area of about 1,300 acres. The Basshouse reservoir, Ashover, has a capacity of about 15,000 gallons.

A scheme is in progress to provide storage room in the

northern part of the district for an additional 70 million gallons, which it is hoped will be sufficient to meet the wants of the population for many years to come. It is also desirable that some arrangement should be come to with Derby, Leicester, or Sheffield, whichever secures the right to the water of the northern part of the county, by which a share of the water can be obtained at a cheap rate when this is rendered necessary by the increase of the population.

The following table gives the number of houses supplied by public service in each township, and other particulars. The number in Calow appears to be very small, but is that returned by the water-rate collector. Ashover, Brackenfield, Heath, and Wessington are badly supplied, as was frequently pointed out by your late Medical Officer of Health.

I examined about 40 of the existing supplies in Heath, and found only one or two which appeared likely to pass muster with an analyst. I purpose submitting a report on the water supply of these places later on.

HOUSES SUPPLIED WITH WATER BY PUBLIC SERVICE.

TOWNSHIPS.	No. of Supplies.	Percentage of inhabited houses supplied.	Reservoir.	Supplying Authority.
Ashover	123	22·2	Basshouse	Ashover Water Co.
Barlow	90	48·6	Crowhole	Rural Dist. Council
Beighton... ..	585	85·4	Ramsley	do.
Brackenfield	Nil.	Nil.	None	None
Brimington	788	84·3	Linacre	C'field Water Board
Calow	8	5·	Crowhole	Rural Dist. Council
Coal Aston	129	89·5	Ramsley	do.
Dronfield Woodhouse	137	85·6	do.	do.
Eckington	2,240	87·1	do & Crowhole	do.
Hasland	1,078	96·1	Linacre	C'field Water Board
Heath	9	10·3	Press	Rural Dist. Council
Holmesfield	42	37·5	Ramsley	do.
Killamarsh	710	94·1	do.	do.
Morton	124	84·3	Press	do.
North Wingfield ...	464	92·4	do.	do.
Pilsley	396	88·1	do.	do.
Shirland & Higham ...	609	83·	do.	do.
Staveley	1,966	98·7	Crowhole	do.
Stretton	51	38·9	Press	do.
Sutton-c-Duckmanton	1	·5	do.	do.
Tapton	54	64·2	Linacre	C'field Water Board
Temple Normanton ...	50	100·	Press	Rural Dist. Council
*Tupton	335	87·4	do.	do.
Unstone	363	97·	Ramsley	do.
Wessington	26	19·1	Linacre	C'field Water Board
Wingerworth	2	2·5	Press	Rural Dist. Council
*Woodthorpe	335	87·4	do.	do.
Chesterfield Rural Dis.	10,380	81·3		

* These figures include the number of supplies in both townships, there being no separate register for each township, as appears very desirable.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

You will find printed below an account of the various sewage disposal works of the district. I regret its unsatisfactory nature, but hope that your efforts to properly treat sewage will be crowned with success, and that I may be able to present you with a congratulatory report at no distant date.

The hilly nature of the District allows of sewage being readily carried to a distance from dwellings, and thus some benefit is obtained from sewerage works, even when the treatment is not satisfactory. The treatment has been unsatisfactory, though obtained at considerable expense, but I am of opinion that most of your sewers and many of the existing works are capable of being brought up to date at a comparatively small expense. I say "most of your sewers" because some of them receive so much ground and storm-water as to render the bulk of the sewage almost unmanageable.

Bacteriolysis, or the bacteriological treatment of sewage, which has attracted so much attention of late, and is superseding chemical and other methods of treatment in many places, is likely to prove very valuable in this district, handicapped as it is with a shallow soil covering a heavy clay subsoil.

Its fundamental principle is the systematic employment under the best possible conditions, of organisms which live upon sewage and thus break it up into its harmless constituents. The method usually adopted is to provide —

(a) A tank or succession of tanks to allow of the subsidence, from the sewage slowly flowing through it, of roadsilt and other mineral substances not affected by the organisms ;

(b) a covered tank to which as little air as possible is admitted, so as to favour the growth of those organisms which liquify organic matter, and thrive best in the absence of light and air ("anaerobic germs") ;

(c) biological filters of coal or coke, duplicated and used alternately, which become filled with inconceivable numbers of nitrifying organisms ("aerobic germs"), which carry the process further and oxidize ammonia into nitrites and nitrates.

Ashover.—The sewage and some of the stormwater of the village is conducted by properly laid sewers to a “swallow,” or chasm, situate about the centre of the village, whence it probably finds its way through disused lead-mines or caverns in the limestone into the river Amber.

Barlow.—The sewage of this village undergoes no treatment. It is collected into a tank fitted with a chain-pump, which apparently is seldom used. At the time of my visit, the sewage was flowing over the end of the tank and into the Barlow brook. There is plenty of land in the neighbourhood suitable for the purposes of sewage disposal.

Beighton.—*Hackenthorpe Village.*—The sewage passes through a catch-pit, for the interception of road silt, into a large underground tank (which appears suitable for conversion into a septic tank), from which it can be turned on to different parts of a sloping field. It eventually finds its way, in a partially purified condition, into a brook polluted with coal-washings.

Brimington.—*Wheeldon Mill Outfall.*—The sewage passes through a tank of three compartments, the middle one of which is filled with “clinkers,” and supposed to act as a filter, and after flowing across a field is discharged into the Chesterfield and Stockwith Canal in an unpurified condition. The further part of the field is the more suitable for irrigation purposes, but is not used, as a well in the neighbourhood supplying three houses becomes polluted when this is done. The well is shallow and probably polluted in other ways, and might be advantageously closed.

New Brimington Outfall from John Street.—The sewage is collected in a settling tank in “The Dumble,” and conveyed thence through pipes to a cemented sewage tank, from which it is distributed on to land ; or, when the crop is ripening, received in a large uncemented catchpit and allowed to soak away. The Chesterfield and Stockwith Canal is about 50 yards distant, and at a lower level.

Steel's Field Outfall.—There is here a tank similar to that at the Wheeldon Mill Outfall. At the time of my visit the sewage was flowing at great speed over the top of the filtering medium in the middle compartment, through the third (or second settling tank), and then into the Chesterfield and Stock-with Canal.

Brimington Common Outfall.—The sewage from about 20 houses is distributed on to a field, without passing through a tank or undergoing any preliminary treatment.

Coal Aston.—The sewage of the village is received into a settling tank, from which there is an overflow into a ditch, the water of which eventually finds its way near Eckington into a watercourse. Purification is not attempted.

Dronfield Woodhouse.—The sewage of the hamlet of *Stubley* is received into a tank with an overflow, similar to that at Coal Aston. The sewage of *Dronfield* passes through a triple tank of the pattern usual in the district—two settling tanks with a filter of “clinkers” between them—and flows away in an unpurified condition to the river Drone.

Eckington.—*Green Lane Outfall.*—The sewage passes through a tank similar to the last, and flows along a ditch to the Spinkhill pond.

Mosboro' Outfall.—The sewage of Mosboro' flows through sewers and an open channel to a pair of triple tanks of the usual pattern, from which it flows away in an unpurified condition to the stream below. I have made several visits to this outfall, and on each occasion found the unpurified sewage pouring into and from the works like a torrent.

Ridgeway Outfall.—The works consist of a pair of triple tanks on the usual principle. At the time of visiting the sewage was entering the tank in such volume, though the weather was dry, as to pass over instead of through the filtering medium, and falling into the Moss brook in a crude state.

Hasland.—*Calow Lane Outfall.*—The works here consist of a double set of the usual tanks, from which the sewage flows in an unpurified condition to the Calow brook, and thence to the river Rother. There is plenty of land in the vicinity suitable for the purification of sewage.

Hasland Churchside Tank—This is a settling tank, through which nothing but pure water appeared to be passing at the time of my visit.

Hasland Green Outfall.—The sewage flows rapidly into and out of a settling tank, and finds its way through a ditch into the Rother, half a mile distant. You have ordered plans for works on another system, which are to be carried out shortly.

Grassmoor Outfall.—The sewage, after passing through a triple tank of the usual pattern, passes through pipes for about three-quarters of a mile, and enters the Rother in an unpurified condition.

Winsick Outfall.—The sewage passes through one of the triple tanks, duplicated for ready cleansing, and runs through a ditch to the Calow brook, about half a mile distant, entering it in an offensive condition.

Killamarsh.—*Marsh Meadows.*—The works consist of a double set of the usual triple tanks. The sewage enters the tank through a long open ditch and leaves it through a closed drain to enter the Rother in an unpurified condition.

West Thorpe Outfall.—The sewage of West Thorpe is received into a settling tank, from which it overflows in an offensive condition. There is here an excellent sloping piece of land suitable for purposes of sewage disposal.

Morton.—The sewage, after passing through one or other of a pair of the usual tanks, flows in an unpurified condition across a meadow to the Alfreton brook.

North Wingfield.—*Hepthorne Lane Outfall* is close to Clay Cross Railway Station. The works consist of (a) a tank or catchpit to separate road-silt; (b) a settling tank; (c) a tank of the usual triple pattern, the middle one being filled with clinkers. The effluent varies in impurity, but is usually very bad, and empties directly into the Rother.

Hilly Fields Outfall.—The sewage from the greater part of North Wingfield flows into this tank, nine feet by six, and passes through an overflow pipe to the Loco. brook, which joins the Rother about a mile away.

Ling's Row Outfall.—The sewage enters a tank filled with coke, and is then passed over land. This process gave a fairly satisfactory result at one time, but at the time of my visit the greater part of the sewage was passing on to the land without going through the filter.

Loco or Pilsley Lane Outfall.—The sewage is received into a settling tank of small dimensions and is then distributed over half an acre of land, underdrained, and then enters the Loco in a partly purified, though not entirely satisfactory, condition. The failure of this system appears to be due to the fact that the number of houses it was designed to serve is now greatly exceeded.

Pilsley.—*Pilsley No. 1 Outfall.*—After passing through a tank of the usual pattern, here duplicated, the sewage passes in an almost crude state to the Padley brook, a tributary of the Rother.

Pilsley Common Outfall.—The sewage passes through a tank of five compartments, three of which are filled with clinkers, and then through pipes to the Alfreton brook.

The Stationhouses Tank receives the sewage of about a dozen houses. This is used on gardens during the spring and summer, but passes at other times through an overflow to a neighbouring ditch.

Shirland & Higham.—*Higham Outfall.*—The process employed here gives better results than it does anywhere else in the District. The sewage passes through one of the usual tanks, and is then distributed over a large field by “carriers” cut in the sod.

New Higham Outfall.—The sewage is discharged directly into the Alfreton brook.

Shirland Gasworks Outfall.—The sewage passes through a triple tank of the usual pattern, from which the effluent passes, with water from the adjacent colliery, through a culvert to the Alfreton brook.

Stonebroom.—The sewage passes through a settling tank, and is then distributed on to land, but enters the brook in a practically crude state.

Staveley.—*Barrow Hill No. 1 Outfall* is near Salmon’s Row. The sewage runs into and from a tank without purification, and thence into a small brook of “rusty” (iron salts) water, which runs to the Rother about 300 yards away. This outfall accounts for the sewage of that part of Barrow Hill on the west side of the Midland Railway.

Barrow Hill No. 2 Outfall.—The sewage from that part of Barrow Hill lying to the east of the Midland Railway goes through a triple tank of the usual pattern, and is distributed on to about half-an-acre of land.

Marples’ Field Outfall.—The sewage after passing through one of the usual triple tanks, enters the Doe Lea in an offensive condition.

Mastin Moor Outfall.—The sewage of this village is collected into a tank near the Church School and, without any attempt at purification being made, is piped under the Chesterfield and Stockwith Canal to the Doe Lea about 800 yards away.

Netherthorpe Outfall.—The works consist of a double set of the usual tanks, and the sewage is discharged in an apparently crude state into the Doe Lea.

Tupton.—*Village Outfall.*—The works here are on the usual system, but were not being used at the time of my visit; the sewage was then flowing down an open ditch or gutter, and being more or less distributed over a field of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. There is plenty of room for the establishment of efficient works.

New Tupton Outfall.—The works consist of a single settling tank which receives the sewage of New Tupton and Tupton Colliery houses; this eventually finds its way to the Rother.

Unstone.—*Outfall near the Refuse Tip.*—The sewage after passing through a tank of the usual pattern enters the Drone. It is very dilute and is soon lost in the “rusty” water of the river.

Unstone Green Outfall.—As last.

Wessington.—The tanks here are similar to those in most of the townships, and the result of the treatment is far from satisfactory.

Addendum.

Since writing the above Mr. E. S. Robinson has informed me that there are also the following sewage works in the district which have not been visited by me.

Brimington.—*Ringwood.*—There is a settling tank here with an overflow to a field ditch.

Shirland & Higham.—*Shirland Lane.*—The sewage flows through one of a double set of the usual triple tanks, and is discharged in an unpurified condition into a tributary of the Alfreton brook.

Staveley.—*Woodthorpe.*—This consists of a settling tank with an overflow into a field ditch.

Handley.—The works consist of a triple tank of the usual pattern with an overflow to a ditch.

Staveley Mill.—The works comprise a pair of triple tanks from which the sewage flows to the Rother.

Unstone.—*Apperknowle Filter.*—This is one of the usual triple tanks with a slag filter. The effluent is discharged into the Drone, half-a-mile away.

Apperknowle Tank.—There is here an ordinary settling tank, the overflow from which goes direct to the Drone, half-a-mile distant.

Marsh Lane.—There is a tank the overflow from which is discharged into the Brickyard Pond.

River Pollution.—The Rother and its tributaries receive a large amount of sewage while passing through this and neighbouring districts. As appears from the following analyses and reports of Mr. J. White, F.I.C., County Analyst, upon samples of water taken by me from the Rother on December 20th of last year at (1) its point of entrance to the Borough of Chesterfield, and (2) at a point about 100 yards after leaving the Borough, a great amount of pollution takes place in Chesterfield, though a considerable amount occurs in your District, through the discharge of sewage into the Calow, Loco, Padley, and other watercourses ; and also in the Clay Cross and Newbold Urban Districts.

PARTS PER 100,000.		No. 1.	No. 2.
Total solid matter .. ..	..	82·0	59·0
Free and saline ammonia .. ..	..	0·052	0·225
Organic ammonia .. ..	..	0·024	0·100
Nitrogen as nitrites and nitrates .. ..	..	0·165	0·165
Chlorine as chlorides... ..	..	3·5	3·8
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80% F. ..	..	0·157	0·467
Appearance in two-foot tube	} Slightly turbid .. and .. brownish ..		Rather turbid
Suspended matter		0·8	2·4
Alkalinity as carbonate of lime .. ..	..	13·0	14·0

No. 1.—“ In appearance the sample was slightly turbid.
 “ The analytical results show evidence of the presence of fresh
 “ organic matter ; although present in somewhat considerable
 “ extent, there is not more than might be expected to occur in a
 “ river in the neighbourhood of a town.”

No. 2.—“ In appearance the sample was rather turbid, and
 “ and contained a considerable quantity of blackish suspended
 “ matter. The analytical results, when compared with those
 “ yielded by No. 1, show a large increase in the amount of
 “ organic matter present, and point to the very considerable
 “ pollution of the river between the two points at which these
 “ samples were collected. The organic matter present in this
 “ sample is approximately four times as much as that contained
 “ in sample No. 1.”

The Doe Lea at Staveley appears to be more polluted than the Rother, but its inky hue is principally due to coal-washings from the Ireland Colliery, though it also receives the following named contributions in this part of its course :—(1) Poolsbrook sewage, (2) Netherthorpe sewage, (3) Marple's field sewage, (4) Mastin Moor sewage ; and is changed from a pleasant stream to a dirty looking drain.

I recommend you to take immediate steps to remedy this crying evil of river pollution so far as it is caused by you, and to then make friendly representations on the point to your neighbouring authorities.

Scavenging.—This is done by contract in most of the townships, but I cannot speak yet as to its being done efficiently or otherwise. Eckington is one of those unscavenged and, failing a satisfactory contract and contractor, it is desirable that you should do the work in this (your most populous) township with your own men.

OTHER MATTERS.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order, 1885.—A serious defect of the Regulations drawn up under this Order in 1887 was the omission to require a certain minimum amount of air space for each animal. It is not sufficient to “ require every dairy or cowshed to be provided with
 “ adequate means of ventilation, and to be properly ventilated
 “ at all times,” and I therefore recommend you to amend your bye-laws and require a minimum air space of 600 cubic feet per cow in the case of old cowsheds, and 800 cubic feet in the case

of cow-sheds to be erected after this date. The Bye-law with regard to cleansing should also be altered, and whitewashing, or other cleansing to your satisfaction, done at least four times a year. Arrangements should also be made to enforce the carrying out of your Bye-laws, for tuberculosis can only be combatted by fresh air, light and cleanliness.

Clause VI, Article (1) of the Order, says “ It shall not be
 “ lawful for any person to carry on in the district of any local
 “ authority the trade of cow-keeper, dairymen, or purveyor of
 “ milk unless he be registered in accordance with this article.”
 This Article appears to be practically a dead letter, for I have been unable to ascertain the existence of the register, though Article (2) says “ Every local authority shall keep a
 “ register of persons from time to time carrying on in their
 “ district the trade of cow-keepers, dairymen, or purveyors of
 “ milk, and shall from time to time revise and correct the
 “ register.”

I feel that it is only necessary for me to call your attention to the above to ensure them receiving your careful consideration.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
 —This is an adoptive Act. Its adoption enables local authorities to prohibit the sale of milk which is causing infectious disease ; to obtain the disinfection and cleansing of infected houses and bedding ; to prevent the throwing of infectious rubbish into ashpits ; to prevent the letting of houses or rooms within six weeks of infectious disease having occurred in them, unless properly disinfected ; to prohibit the keeping of bodies dead from infectious disease longer than 48 hours, except under certain specified conditions, and the removal of bodies from infectious hospitals except for the purpose of burial ; and empowers Justices to order the detention of persons in hospital until free from infection.

Your adoption of this Act would be advantageous from every point of view.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.—

This also is an adoptive Act. Its adoption enables local authorities to prevent the passing into their sewers of injurious matters, under penalties ; it forbids the use, as a living room or sleeping-room, of a room over a privy (not being a water-closet), cesspool, midden, or ashpit ; and permits the seizure of articles of unsound food, even if already sold, and their condemnation by a Justice ; it enables a time to be specified during which a licence for a slaughter-house shall be in force ; and empowers a local authority to revoke the licence of the occupier of a registered slaughter-house who has been convicted of selling meat diseased or unsound, or unwholesome or unfit for the use of man.

The adoption of this Act also would be of great advantage to the district.

The Private Streets Works' Act, 1832.—No argument in favour of the adoption of this Act will be needed in the case of those familiar with the condition of Allen, Armistead and Station Roads Beighton, Cow Lane in Brimington, New Street in Hasland, Queen Street in Eckington, New Street in Morton, Hepthorne Lane in North Wingfield, New Street and The Brickyard in Staveley, and other streets in the District. Inconvenience and risk of accident to vehicles are not the only drawbacks of their present unmade state, for it is almost impossible to cross them dryshod in wet weather.

The Act may be adopted by Rural District Councils only with the sanction of the Local Government Board, and I am able to tell you from past experience that this is likely to be given only in the cases of townships or parts of townships provided with a sewerage system. Where it has been adopted, any street or part of a street not sewered, levelled, paved, metalled, flagged, channelled, made good and lighted to the satisfaction of the Council, may be sewered, levelled, paved, metalled, flagged, channelled, made good, or provided with proper means of lighting, the expenses being apportioned (subject to the provi-

sions of the Act) on the premises fronting, adjoining, or abutting on such street, or part of a street ; where there is any difficulty in recovering the amount of the apportionment, it may be recovered summarily or in the same manner as private improvement expenses under the Public Act of 1875.

If the Council thinks fit, it may contribute the whole or a portion of the expenses of any private street works, and pay the same out of the District fund.

If all or any of the works mentioned have been carried out to the satisfaction of the Council and it is of opinion that such street, or part of a street, ought to become a highway repairable by the inhabitants at large, it may by notice declare it to be such ; or it may do so in consequence of a requisition in writing of the greater part in value of the owners of the houses and land in such street.

Ample safeguards are provided against injustice being done to the property owners affected.

Systematic Inspection.—House-to-house visitation of the District has not been carried out in recent years, and I have no information that it has ever been. Unless a complaint of nuisance is made or a case of infectious disease is notified at an insanitary house, it may escape notice for many years.

It is quite beyond the powers of your present staff to perform systematic inspection. Mr. Robinson has much of his time taken up with the duties of Surveyor, and that of Mr. Hutchinson is almost fully occupied with the visiting of infected houses ; while my own is fully occupied with the calls of each day and the overtaking of the arrears of clerical work, so that I am in a position to undertake little more than the supervision of this work.

I recommend you to appoint one or more Inspectors for this purpose, and to have each and every house in the district inspected and put in sanitary order, the work done being

reported to you each month. Excluding Sundays, Saturday afternoons, days of meeting and so forth, there are about 270 working days in the year, and an inspection of the district at the rate of 30 houses daily would take about eighteen months to complete. I place the average daily number of inspections at 30, but the figure would depend upon the number of nuisances found and notices required and also on the distances to be traversed, and would be largely exceeded where the houses inspected were near together.

If you appoint two additional Inspectors at £100 yearly, and assign districts to them and Mr. Hutchinson (whose salary is wholly paid by you at present), half of their salaries will become repayable by the County Council, and you will thus have two more Inspectors and a vastly improved sanitary service at an increased expenditure of about £40 a-year; or you can have one more at the present cost.

The Food and Drugs Acts.—No action appears to have been taken under these enactments, and I am unable to tell you whether adulteration is rife in the district or not. If you see fit to comply with my recommendations as to the appointment of additional inspectors, you will be able to have samples taken systematically. Any district where the duty of examining food stuffs is neglected is likely to become a happy hunting ground for the adulterator, who thrives at the expense of honest tradesmen.

I append tables A and B of the Local Government Board; Mr. Robinson, Sanitary Inspector's Report; Mr. Hutchinson, Disinfecting Inspector's Report; the Canal Boats Report; and have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT PECK,

M.B., C.M. Edin., D.P.H. Cambridge. Fellow
of the Incorporated Society of Medical
Officers of Health, etc.

Annual Report on Canal Boats.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Chesterfield
Rural District Council.*

January 27th, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

Since my appointment on September 10th of last year I have seen the Chesterfield and Stockwith Canal many times, and walked along its banks on several occasions, but have seen no boats upon it.

Judging from the appearance of the towing-path and the weed-overgrown condition of the canal itself, it is rarely and with difficulty that boats pass along it.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT PECK,

Medical Officer of Health.

Rural District Council of Chesterfield.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District Council of Chesterfield.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report of the work done in my various departments during the year ending the 31st December, 1898.

NOTICES SERVED.

Emptying of Ashpits and Cesspools	448
Drains, connections, choked drains, &c. . .	149
Defective, Leaky Privies and Ashpits... ..	191
Removal of Privies and Ashpits	21
Animals improperly kept	11
Dilapidated Dwellings	12
Filthy Houses	4
Overcrowding	12
Water Supply	4
Limewashing and Cleansing Infected Houses	161
Paving of Back Yards	36
	<hr/>
	1049

In addition to the above 279 houses have been disinfected or fumigated.

PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.

The Council undertake the emptying of Ashpits, and contracts for the said work are made for Ashover, Barlow, Beighton, Brimington, Coal Aston, Dronfield Woodhouse, Hasland, Heath, Holmesfield, Killamarsh, North Wingfield, Pilsley, Shirland, and Tupton.

MILK SHOP AND DAIRIES.

There are no milk shops in the District. A number of Cowsheds and Dairies have been inspected. All the Dairies were found clean, and the cowsheds as a rule were clean and wholesome.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two of these in the District, Both are in the Village of Eckington. These have been periodically inspected. I have always found them clean, and no infectious disease was found in them.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 122 Licensed Slaughter Houses in the district. All have been inspected at intervals, and with few exceptions were found clean and wholesome.

SEWERS, FILTER BEDS AND TANKS.

The whole of the above have been regularly cleansed and maintained in working order by the Contractor, and periodically inspected by me.

NEWLY-ERECTED DWELLINGS.

Certificates under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, have been granted for 402 Dwellings and Public Buildings.

NOTICES COMPLIED WITH.

Emptying Ashpits, &c.	448
Drains, &c.	149
Dilapidated Houses	8
Defective Privies, &c.	141
Removal of Privies, &c.	21
Animals improperly kept	11
Overcrowding... ..	12
Filthy Houses	4
Water Supply	—
Paving Back Yards	36
Limewashing, &c., after infection	161

Comparative return of plans submitted of new Dwelling-houses and other buildings approved during the last ten years :—

Year.	Plans submitted.	Approved.	Rejected.	Dwellings Approved.	Public Buildings and Miscellaneous Buildings Approved.
1889	83	73	10	125	32
1890	97	78	9	491	39
1891	90	84	6	419	32
1892	130	122	8	305	32
1893	149	134	15	374	50
1894	147	134	13	305	27
1895	156	149	7	286	60
1896	143	133	10	316	51
1897	144	140	4	533	55
1898	174	171	3	384	64

RETURN OF NOTICES served in each Parish :—

Ashover ...	...	...	30	North Wingfield	...	23
Barlow ...	...	...	5	Pilsley ...	...	115
Beighton	...	...	58	Sbirland and Higham	...	29
Brackenfield	...	...	3	Staveley...	...	67
Brimington	...	...	116	Stretton...	...	12
Calow ...	...	...	19	Sutton-c.-Duckmanton..	...	3
Coal Aston	...	...	3	Tapton ...	...	4
Dronfield Woodhouse	...	...	6	Temple Normanton	...	15
Eckington	...	...	219	Tupton ...	...	21
Hasland...	...	...	124	Unstone ..	...	54
Heath ...	...	...	8	Wessington	...	9
Holmesfield	...	...	6	Wingerworth	...	0
Killamarsh	...	...	84	Woodthorpe	...	0
Morton ...	...	...	26			

The Special Works carried out by me during the year are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Repairs to Filters and Tanks ...	...	28	12 4
Do. Reservoir House, Barlow	...	4	19 5
Iron Fencing at Wessington Filter	...	35	5 0
Hackenthorpe Sewage Farm ...	...	12	0 0

			£	s.	d.
Nightsoil Tip at Eckington	...	...	19	17	5
New sewers & repairs to sewers at Ashover			54	12	0
Do.	do.	Brimington	18	10	0
Do.	do.	Coal Aston	35	0	0
Do.	do.	Hasland	149	2	0
Do.	do.	Eckington	99	9	6
Do.	do.	Shirland	4	6	5
Do.	do.	Staveley	14	0	0
Do.	do.	Tupton	17	3	6
Do.	do.	Morton	1	5	0
Do.	do.	Unstone	15	8	0
Do.	do.	Wessington	21	1	9
Cleansing Filters and Tanks	...	...	100	10	0
Cleansing Ashpits—Ashover	...	...	20	0	0
Do.	do.	Barlow	18	0	0
Do.	do.	Beighton	130	0	0
Do.	do.	Brimington	125	0	0
Do.	do.	Coal Aston...	10	0	0
Do.	do.	Dronfield Woodhouse	9	10	0
Do.	do.	Hasland	180	10	0
Do.	do.	Heath	10	0	0
Do.	do.	Holmesfield	5	0	0
Do.	do.	Killamarsh...	130	0	0
Do.	do.	North Wingfield	85	0	0
Do.	do.	Pilsley	120	0	0
Do.	do.	Shirland	115	0	0
Do.	do.	Tupton	70	0	0
			<hr/>		
			£1678	12	4

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST SPENCE ROBINSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Feb. 25th, 1899.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chesterfield Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It is with much pleasure that I submit my Annual Report of the work done by me in connection with infectious disease, and overflowing ashpits and privies, during the year 1898.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

I have visited the whole of the parishes where fever prevailed, and given all necessary instructions to the occupiers of the infected houses as to isolation, cleanliness, etc., to prevent the disease from spreading.

I have also disinfected, by fumigation and otherwise, 278 dwelling-houses where the patients had either died, recovered, or been removed to the Isolation Hospital at Morton. 229 of these were infected with Scarlet Fever, 39 with Typhoid Fever, and 10 with Diphtheria. Particulars as to parishes are as follows:—

PARISH.	Scarlatina.	Typhoid.	Diphtheria.	Total.	For the year 1897.
Ashover	7	2	..	9	7
Barlow	4	..	..	4	1
Beighton	16	3	..	19	6
Brimington	7	5	1	13	8
Calow	1	..	1	2	1
Coal Aston	1	..	..	1	..
Dronfield Woodhouse..	4	..	..	4	10
Eckington	26	10	1	37	74
Hasland	20	1	..	21	17
Killamarsh	9	1	1	11	53
Morton	1	1	..	2	3
North Wingfield ..	8	3	..	11	13
Pilsley	10	1	..	11	19
Shirland & Higham ..	9	2	..	11	35
Staveley	89	8	5	102	64
Stretton	3	..	..	3	6
Sutton-c-Duckmanton	2	..	..	2	1
Tapton	1	..	..	1	3
Temple Normanton ..	1	..	..	1	..
Tupton	6	1	..	7	6
Unstone	2	..	1	3	18
Wessington .. ..	..	..	..	..	1
Woodthorpe	2	1	..	3	..
Total	229	39	10	278	346

PATIENTS REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the year I have removed 9 persons suffering from infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital at Morton, as compared with 11 for the previous year; 4 were suffering from Scarlet Fever, and 5 from Typhoid Fever. Particulars as to parishes are as follows :—

PARISH.				Typhoid.	Scarlet.
Brimington	...	...	...	1	0
Morton	...	...	...	3	0
Staveley	...	...	...	1	0
Shirland	...	...	...	0	1
Stretton	...	...	...	0	1
Woodthorpe	...	...	...	0	2
Total				5	4

One of the patients from the parish of Morton died in the Hospital.

OVERFLOWING ASHPITS, ETC.

During the year I have found it necessary to issue the following notices in connection with overflowing ashpits, etc. :—

PARISH.				
Ashover	...	...	...	4
Brimington	...	...	...	21
Eckington	...	...	...	120
Hasland	...	...	...	112
Killamarsh	...	...	...	4
Morton	...	...	...	2
North Wingfield...	...	...	...	15
Pilsley...	...	...	...	4
Staveley	...	...	...	31
Tupton	...	...	...	39
Total				352

I am, gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES HUTCHINSON,

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR.

NORTH WINGFIELD, FEB. 1ST, 1899.



CHESTERFIELD :

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Station Road.



Chesterfield Rural District Council.

GENERAL RULES

TO BE OBSERVED IN THE

MANAGEMENT

OF

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

1. The patient should be separated as completely as possible from the other inmates of the house ; or, better still, removed to the Isolation Hospital.

2. Children living in infected houses, or recovering from infectious disease, must not attend school until after the house has been disinfected.

3. Remember that the danger of infection is the same in all cases, whether mild or severe.

4. The sickroom should be made as bare as possible by the removal of all bed-curtains, carpets and unnecessary articles of furniture.

❧ PENALTIES. ❧

- | | | |
|---|--------|---|
| 1. For failing to notify the Medical Officer of Health of case of any of the following diseases : — Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, and the Fevers known by any of the following names : Typhus, Typhoid, Enteric, Relapsing, Continued, or Puerperal | ... .. | £2 |
| 2. For entering any street, public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance while in an infectious state | ... .. | £5. |
| 3. For exposing any infected person in any street, public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance | ... .. | £5. |
| 4. For giving, lending, transmitting or exposing any article without disinfection | ... .. | £5. |
| 5. For casting infected rubbish without previous disinfection into any ashpit or other receptacle for refuse | ... .. | £5. |
| 6. For ceasing to occupy infected houses or rooms without previous disinfection of them and their contents, or giving notice to the owner of the previous occurrence of infectious disease in them | ... .. | £10. |
| 7. For making a false statement to an owner or prospective tenant as to there having been within a house or room during a previous period of six weeks any person suffering from an infectious disease | ... .. | £10. |
| 8. For letting any infected room or premises without disinfection to the satisfaction of a qualified medical practitioner | ... | £20. |
| 9. For making a false statement to a prospective tenant as to there being, or having been within a previous period of six weeks, an infected person in a house or part of a house exposed for hire | ... .. | Imprisonment with or without hard labour, or £20. |